United Nations S/2018/163

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 February 2018

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 15 November 2017 to 16 February 2018)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2392 (2017), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 March 2018, and in accordance with prior resolutions in which the Council requested me to report on the implementation of the mandate every 90 days. It covers political and security developments from 15 November 2017 to 16 February 2018, the humanitarian situation, and progress in the implementation of the Mission mandate. It also provides a review of progress made by the parties in ceasing hostilities, returning to the path of dialogue and achieving inclusiveness within the Government.

II. Political and economic developments

2. The period under review saw the revival of the political process with the holding of two sessions of the high-level revitalization forum of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the signing of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access. Meanwhile, inside South Sudan, the national dialogue that the Government launched in May 2017 has continued with further grass-roots consultations. The economy has remained stagnant, with few signs of the improvements in the public and private sectors that are needed to ease the chronic poverty and hardship that affect the majority of the South Sudanese population.

Peace agreement revitalization forum

3. On 28 November, the IGAD Council of Ministers issued a communiqué in the run-up to the first session of the IGAD revitalization forum, in which it endorsed the report of the IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan, Ismail Wais, on his pre-forum consultations with South Sudanese stakeholders. The report of the IGAD Special Envoy summarized potential options to address contentious issues, such as transitional government arrangements, state administrative restructuring and the legislature. On 17 December, the Government restated its view that the forum should not be a renegotiation of the 2015 peace agreement. In a press release issued on 18 December, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Opposition repeated its view that the peace agreement had collapsed following the events in Juba in July 2016.

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4. On 18 December, the IGAD Council of Ministers opened the forum, urging the parties to commit to immediately silencing the guns through agreement on a cessation of hostilities. From 18 to 21 December in Addis Ababa, IGAD convened the first phase of the high-level forum on the revitalization of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan of August 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the peace agreement). On 21 December, 14 parties signed the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access, with representatives of South Sudanese stakeholders, IGAD and the African Union signing as guarantors and the IGAD mediators and international partners as witnesses. The signatory parties included the Transitional Government of National Unity, SPLM/A in Opposition, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) "Former Detainees", the National Salvation Front and 10 other opposition movements and parties.

5. Since the new cessation of hostilities agreement came into force on 24 December, it has been subject to a number of verified and claimed violations. On 15 January, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism reported to the IGAD Council of Ministers and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission that Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces south of Mundri had violated the agreement by way of actions carried out between 22 December 2017 and 8 January 2018, and that pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces had violated the agreement by way of actions carried out in Koch on 24 December. Reports of alleged violations have continued up to the time of reporting, indicating that key parties are not fulfilling their commitments under the agreement. Meanwhile, the parties themselves have made claims and counterclaims of alleged violations, adding further pressure on the Mechanism's monitoring and verification teams to verify reported violations.

6. On 12 January, the Chair of the African Union Commission and I issued a joint statement condemning violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement and voicing our firm view that there must be consequences for parties violating the agreement. The troika of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America similarly issued a statement on 12 January condemning the continuing pattern of violations and stating their readiness to hold those responsible to account and to impose measures on those who violated the agreement. On 25 January, the IGAD Council of Ministers requested all parties to investigate and report within one month on violations and cases of sexual and gender-based violence and recruitment and use of children, and to identify the individuals responsible. Concern about the issue was echoed in statements by the European Union and the troika on 26 and 29 January, respectively. On 27 January, the African Union, IGAD and the United Nations jointly condemned and called for accountability for violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement and rejected threats directed towards the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism. On the same day, the IGAD Council of Ministers issued a communiqué in which it endorsed the Mechanism's verified violation reports and reaffirmed its commitment to take appropriate action, including targeted sanctions, against those violating the agreement.

7. The second session of the forum began in Addis Ababa on 5 February, with participation from all South Sudanese parties and stakeholder groups. Discussions were focused on measures to revitalize chapter I (on the Transitional Government of National Unity) and chapter II (on the permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements) of the peace agreement. The second session of the forum concluded on 16 February with limited progress towards achieving the objectives set out by the IGAD mediation and with no date agreed for the next phase. However, the South Sudanese parties issued statements reiterating their commitment to the process and

initialled the revised articles in chapters I and II, on which they had reached consensus. Prior to the start of the forum, a coalition of 44 women's organizations called for a comprehensive increase in women's participation in peace processes and governance and security leadership positions in South Sudan.

National political developments

8. Notwithstanding the ongoing revitalization efforts, progress in implementing the 2015 peace agreement has been limited. In a position paper submitted to IGAD on 17 December, the Government stated that implementation of the peace agreement was "in progress" and that shortcomings in timely implementation were mainly "due to lack of funding". On 13 January, the National Constitutional Amendment Committee reported that it was considering submissions from political parties and others on two political parties and election bills. The draft bill outlining amendments required to align the 2011 Transitional Constitution with the peace agreement has yet to be tabled before the parliament for ratification.

9. The subnational phase of the national dialogue continued, including efforts to consult with the internally displaced and refugee populations. During the second half of November, consultations concluded in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal and Upper Nile, including one consultation held in a protection of civilians site. In November and December, public consultations were held with South Sudanese refugees in Kenya and Uganda. During December, subcommittees concluded consultations in Central Equatoria, the Abyei Administrative Area and Western Bahr el-Ghazal. Subcommittees began consultations in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Pibor and Western Equatoria in December and in Warrap in early January. Consultations in Juba continued in November and December with civil society, youth groups, community elders, religious leaders, academics and parliamentarians.

10. In general, many of the subcommittee consultations appear to have been relatively open with broadly representative local participation. However, political, financial, logistical and access constraints have limited the reach of the consultations to largely Government-controlled locations. On 18 January, the national dialogue secretariat convened a round-table event in Juba on the subject of freedom of expression, access to information and the creation of an environment conducive to dialogue.

11. From 14 to 16 November, a meeting of the SPLM in Government and the SPLM "Former Detainees" was held in Cairo under the sponsorship of the Presidents of Egypt and Uganda. The meeting produced a new declaration on reunification of SPLM, and a further meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda, produced, on 15 December, an implementation plan for reunification. A reunification agreement for SPLM was first signed in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in January 2015.

12. In late January and mid-February 2018, the President, Salva Kiir, dismissed and appointed new Governors in Terekeka, Eastern Lakes, Latjoor, Boma, Yei River and Tonj, bringing the number of Governors replaced to more than 14 since the issuance of the presidential decree of 14 January 2017 establishing a 32-state system. On 16 February, the President decreed the reshuffle of the Governors of Yei River and Tonj. In late January and early February, the President also appointed new Deputy Ministers of Labour and of Information. On 19 January, the pro-Machar Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition appointed new Governors for Central Equatoria and Wau.

13. On 2 February, the United States Department of State announced restrictions on the export of defence articles and defence services to South Sudan. Protests in favour of and against the arms embargo were organized across the country. Also on 2 February, the European Union added the former Chief of General Staff of SPLA,

Paul Malong, the former Assistant Chief of Defence Forces of SPLA, Malek Reuben Riak, and Minister of Information and Government spokesperson, Michael Makuei Leuth, to the list of individuals subject to a travel ban and an asset freeze.

Economic developments

14. The economy has remained stagnant, with few signs of stabilization and little prospect of sustained recovery. The depreciation of the South Sudanese pound has continued; its value against the United States dollar fell from an average of around 175 pounds per dollar in November to 230 pounds per dollar in February. Consumer price inflation slowed slightly, but was still estimated to have been at 118 per cent in 2017, according to the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics. As a consequence, the public have faced large rises in the prices of commodities, public transport and services.

III. Security situation

15. Violent clashes involving SPLA, SPLA in Opposition and other armed groups continued to occur across the country. As in previous reporting periods, incidents were particularly concentrated in parts of the greater Upper Nile and greater Equatoria regions. During December and January, violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement verified by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism were mainly of low intensity. However, violations reported in February indicated planning by the parties for further offensives and an increased intensity in the fighting. Furthermore, the parties did not comply fully with provisions of the agreement, in particular the requirements to promulgate the agreement to all their units in the field, adhere to the principles of freezing forces in place and disengaging when they are in close proximity, and inform the Mechanism of any planned military movement.

Greater Upper Nile region

16. The security situation in greater Upper Nile remained volatile, with reports of fighting between SPLA and the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition. In Jonglei, the two forces clashed on 17 and 18 November in the Wau and Mogok districts in Ayod County; SPLA remained in control of Wau and surrounding areas, while SPLA in Opposition was reportedly stationed near Mogok. SPLA allegedly attacked pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces near Yuai on 29 December and in Wunbil village near Waat on 31 December. Starting on 7 January, the First Vice-President, Taban Deng Gai, undertook a two-week visit to multiple locations in Jonglei, including Bor, Jalle, Pajok, Panyagor and Yuai, accompanied by a large security detail, with the stated purpose of raising awareness about the cessation of hostilities agreement.

17. SPLA and opposition forces continued to be in close proximity in parts of Upper Nile. Clashes broke out on 24 November in Nasir, and on 26 November an SPLA attempt to advance towards the opposition-controlled Maiwut area on the outskirts of Pagak was pushed back. Forces also exchanged heavy artillery fire in Atar on 7 December and on 17 December, when SPLA allegedly attacked a position of General Johnson Olony's Agwelek forces under the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition in Kola, Manyo County.

18. In central and southern parts of Unity, tensions continued between SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces. According to a report issued by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, on 20 November the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition took control of Rubkway, south of Bieh, and

captured the Deputy Commissioner, who remains in opposition captivity. Intermittent clashes were also reported in Leer town and Leer County, including heavy fighting on 30 November in Leer town and Thonyor, which caused some damage within the UNMISS temporary operating base in Leer. Insecurity in the Rubkona area was highlighted by an ambush carried out on a demining company contracted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations near Kaljak on 10 December, which SPLA blamed on the opposition, who rejected the accusation. The pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition claimed that on 27 December they repelled an SPLA attack in Bieh, Koch County. Clashes were reported around Koch on 12 and 13 January, including an SPLA attack on pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces reported by a United Nations agency operating in Buaw, Koch County, on 12 January, as well as a confirmed clash on 12 January in Bol, between Koch and Rubkway. On 2 February, SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces also reportedly clashed in Buoh, Mirmir, Buaw and Koch in Koch County, and in Buaw and Rier on 10 February.

Greater Equatoria region

19. The security situation in parts of the Equatorias remained tense. On 19 November, pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces claimed to have clashed with SPLA forces advancing towards the Iyiri area of Magwe. Following SPLA clearing operations against pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces in and around Torit town, several rounds of small arms fire and two rocket-propelled grenade shells were heard on 12 December in proximity to the UNMISS base in Torit. The pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition denied involvement in the incident following claims that SPLA forces were attempting to capture opposition soldiers hiding in Torit. There were also reports that SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces clashed at the Lawaci River, between Pogee and Pajok, in Magwe County on 19 January, and in Loming on 5 February. Meanwhile, ambushes were reported on the Juba-Kapoeta, Juba-Torit, Kapoeta-Torit, Torit-Magwe and Kapoeta-Ngauro roads, resulting in several civilian casualties.

20. Southern parts of Central Equatoria remained insecure, with reports of clashes between SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces. On 14 December, a convoy of United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations was robbed at a location between Limbe and Koya, near Yei town. SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces reportedly clashed in Lasu on 17 and 18 December; SPLA reportedly took control of the centre of Lasu, while the opposition was stationed in the surrounding areas. On 24 December, SPLA forces allegedly attacked a pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition position in Lujulu near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, resulting in four civilian fatalities. On 25 December, one civilian was reportedly killed and four others were injured when SPLA forces reportedly opened fire on civilians in Yei town. There were also reports of clashes between the two forces in Bazi, Kaia and Morobo on 3 January. Community leaders in Yei claimed that on 4 January, clashes between the two forces in the Iraga area of Morobo County had led to civilian casualties. The pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition further alleged that on 9 January, SPLA forces attacked their position at Wunaleng, approximately 12 kilometres west of Juba. However, SPLA refused to confirm the incident.

21. Reports of insecurity persisted in Central Equatoria. On 22 November, South Sudan National Police Service forces were deployed to the Gudele area in Juba to disarm alleged land grabbers, resulting in the deaths of two civilians. On 25 November, armed men ambushed a civilian vehicle on the road to Yei near the UNMISS base at United Nations House in Juba. On 4 January, there were reports of attacks by armed groups on SPLA positions in Gudele and Kapuri, west of Juba, and

a shooting incident near the UNMISS protection of civilians site adjacent to United Nations House.

22. In eastern parts of Western Equatoria, intermittent clashes between SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces were reported. On 26 November, SPLA allegedly attacked opposition positions between Mundri town and Bangolo, as well as in Wiro, east of Lui, and Nywu, south-west of Mundri town, resulting in the killing of three civilians. Between 30 November and 2 December, SPLA forces allegedly launched attacks on opposition positions in Kedibo, Bangolo and Garia. However, on 1 December, the Government denied any SPLA offensive in opposition-controlled areas. SPLA clearing operations around Mundri town led to civilian displacement, while the Mundri-Bangolo, Mundri-Kedibo and Mundri-Lakamadi roads were inaccessible owing to insecurity. The Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism reported a clash on 24 December at Landigwa between SPLA and the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition, caused by SPLA movement from Bari towards Garia. On 2 January, local sources reported that a heavy SPLA deployment had been observed along the Mundri-Bangolo road.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

23. The security situation in greater Bahr el-Ghazal was also tense. In Western Bahr el-Ghazal, armed men allegedly attacked SPLA soldiers from the Bringi checkpoint on the Wau-Baggari road on 15 and 17 November. On 27 November, SPLA soldiers allegedly attacked civilians between Agok and Momoi Bomas and were subsequently arrested and detained by the National Security Service. On 17 December, fighting allegedly broke out between pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces and a joint force of the Justice and Equality Movement and SPLA near Yangusi village, south of Raja town. In another incident, two civilian vehicles were attacked by an armed group near Khor Birdi, south of Raja town, resulting in the killing of eight people.

24. In Warrap, SPLA forces started house-to-house searches as part of the civilian disarmament process. Rising insecurity between Tonj and Lakes was also reported as suspected armed men from Rumbek North raided cattle in Wunlit County. In Lakes, on 9 December, two United Nations contractor trucks were fired upon by armed men near Cueicok, Mayom Payam, in Rumbek Centre County.

Intercommunal conflict

25. Separate from the conflict between the Government and armed opposition, intercommunal tensions continued to result in substantial numbers of civilian deaths related to cattle-raiding incidents, revenge killings and disputes over land and natural resources. In Lakes, tensions between subsections of the Dinka Agar continued, with deadly clashes reported in Malek County on 6 December and subsequent counter-attacks on Cueicok, Mayom Payam, and Kabur-Williams villages on 8 December, resulting in at least 120 killed and 70 wounded. On 16 and 17 December, in Warrap, Thiik youth attacked the Jalwa in Panjak Boma, Wunlit County, resulting in at least 43 killed and 53 injured. On 27 and 28 November, in Jonglei, Murle youth attacked Duk Payuel County, resulting in approximately 40 civilians killed and over 50 women and children abducted. Following the attack, the President issued an ultimatum calling for the return of abductees and stolen cattle and summoned the local governors. On 22 December, two subgroups of the Abii community clashed near Pariak over access to grazing land, allegedly resulting in 17 killed and at least 18 injured.

IV. Humanitarian situation

26. The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains grave. As of February 2018, the United Nations estimates that 1.8 million people are internally displaced in South Sudan, and around 2.4 million are refugees in neighbouring countries — 2 million of them having fled or left South Sudan since the eruption of conflict in December 2013. During 2017, around 700,000 people fled the country, down only slightly from the 760,000 who fled in 2016. Women and children make up approximately 85 per cent of the more than 1 million South Sudanese refugees in Uganda alone.

27. Food insecurity is widespread. Post-harvest gains in the fourth quarter of 2017 had been expected to reduce the number of people facing severe food insecurity. However, it is anticipated that an earlier than normal start of the "lean" harvest season will push the number of people classified as severely food insecure up from 4.8 million in late 2017 to 5.1 million between January and March 2018. Acute malnutrition is prevalent, particularly among children and women. An estimated 1.1 million children are acutely malnourished, including around 280,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Renk, Upper Nile, Twic, Warrap and the Greater Baggari area in Wau are currently facing extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition, while 31 counties in Lakes, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Unity, parts of Jonglei, Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria are showing critical levels.

28. Armed clashes, insecurity and access incidents continue to constrain the delivery of humanitarian aid. In 2017, 1,159 humanitarian access incidents were reported by humanitarian aid organizations in South Sudan, the highest number of incidents reported in a calendar year and a significant increase from the 908 incidents reported in 2016 and the 909 in 2015. During 2017, 54 security incidents caused the temporary relocation of 612 humanitarian staff. Despite intensive negotiations, humanitarian actors also continue to face instances of access being denied at checkpoints. Contractors transporting humanitarian aid goods have reported incidents of extortion along the 1,028-kilometre Juba-Bentiu route, along which more than 66 checkpoints have been counted. This situation has continued despite a presidential decree in November ordering the free, unimpeded and unhindered movement of aid organizations in the country.

29. Despite these challenges, humanitarian aid operations in South Sudan reached some 5.4 million people in 2017 against a target of 6.2 million people assessed to be in need of assistance. In 2017, 5.4 million people received food and livelihood assistance, 2.5 million people received emergency health kits, 2.1 million people were able to access improved water sources and 1.9 million people received humanitarian protection services. Around 900,000 people, including 160,000 children, were treated for malnutrition.

30. The $1.6 billion Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 was 71 per cent funded as at the end of 2017. The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018 requires $1.7 billion in funding to provide assistance and protection to some 6 million people.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

A. Protection of civilians

31. UNMISS continued to use a three-tiered approach to its mandated task of protection of civilians. Under the first tier, protection through dialogue and political engagement, the Mission engaged political and other stakeholders at the highest level through the good offices of my Special Representative. In those engagements, he stressed the responsibility of the Government and parties to protect civilians, observe

the ceasefire and ensure unhindered access for UNMISS and humanitarian actors, in line with the peace agreement, the December 2017 cessation of hostilities agreement and the President's own commitment. In January, my Special Representative also met with the Minister of the Interior and leadership of the National Security Service to underscore the need for greater coordination on security around the Juba protection of civilians sites in response to recent incidents of criminality. Elsewhere, UNMISS conducted 32 subnational workshops and activities with a total of 4,051 participants (1,116 women) on subjects related to social cohesion, reconciliation and conflict management. Following a workshop facilitated by UNMISS in Bor in September 2017 to bridge hostilities between Dinka Bor youth in Bor town and Nuer youth in the Bor protection site, a follow-up "sports for peace" programme was facilitated in December. In Wau town, UNMISS facilitated a discussion between government officials and displaced persons on creating an environment conducive to the safe and voluntary return of displaced populations. UNMISS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly facilitated a pre-migration conference for Sudanese Misseriya pastoralists and Dinka Malual hosts in Aweil East to mitigate migration-related violence. UNMISS also supported a dialogue forum with communities east of Bentiu to manage intercommunal conflict related to the return of displaced persons. The Mission likewise organized three dialogue forums for communities in conflict in Apuk, Aguok, Kuac and Abiem in Gogrial to mitigate tensions. UNMISS, in collaboration with local non-governmental organizations, also organized dialogues in Yambio and Torit to promote trust between communities and the organized forces.

32. Under the second tier, protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, as at 13 February 2018 the Mission was protecting 204,247 internally displaced persons in five UNMISS protection of civilians sites. This included 114,245 in Bentiu, 38,113 in Juba, 24,417 in Malakal, 2,296 in Bor and 25,176 in Wau. A temporary protection area in Leer, southern Unity, provided refuge to 1,316 displaced persons. It is worth noting a slight decline in the number of internally displaced persons in protection sites owing to the closure of the Melut site and decongestion of the Wau protection sites. To reinforce the civilian character of the sites, UNMISS maintained weekly meetings with community leaders to remind them of their own responsibility in curtailing criminality within the sites. In Juba, following the attack on humanitarian staff of 25 October 2017, the Mission led meetings with community leaders and humanitarian services providers to address grievances and reiterate the Mission's zero-tolerance policy on violence against humanitarian partners. Regular town hall meetings with community representatives were organized in the Wau, Malakal and Bentiu sites to discuss the Mission's responses to criminality.

33. UNMISS conducted 164 search operations in protection of civilians sites, which resulted in the confiscation of prohibited items such as weapons, ammunition, illicit drugs and stolen United Nations property. As at 12 February 2018, a total of 25 persons suspected of being responsible for serious security incidents within the protection sites were detained in the UNMISS holding facilities in Bentiu, Juba and Malakal. A total of 342 crime and security incidents were recorded within the protection sites during the reporting period, with the highest incidence reported in Bentiu (160 incidents), followed by Juba (79 incidents) and Malakal (68 incidents). The most common security incidents recorded were assault (39), followed by theft (25). The most serious security incident in the protection sites occurred on 1 January in the Bentiu protection site, when four UNMISS peacekeepers sustained injuries and three UNMISS vehicles were damaged. On 25 January, UNMISS responded to a security situation related to an operation conducted by national security agencies to apprehend alleged kidnappers in the vicinity of a protection of civilians site in Juba. UNMISS closed off the site and increased patrolling within the weapons-free zone around the site while conducting a search operation to ensure the site was free of

suspicious persons or illicit activities. Tensions with the authorities over perceived criminality originating from within the protection of civilians sites in Juba have flared over several incidents in January, leading UNMISS to strengthen its patrolling and to work towards improving coordination and information-sharing with national authorities on the ground.

34. UNMISS continued to focus on deterring and mitigating violence against civilians beyond its protection sites. During the reporting period, a total of 6,124 patrols (short and long duration, dynamic air, riverine and foot) were conducted, including regular patrols outside the protection of civilians sites in Juba, Bentiu, Bor, Malakal and Wau. Efforts included proactive deployment and patrolling to areas affected by or threatened by conflict, including dismounted integrated patrols to assess the situation and facilitate engagement with host communities and displaced persons. UNMISS increased its patrolling efforts on the west bank of the Nile River and in the areas of Kaka, Maiwut, Nasir and Pagak. In Upper Nile, UNMISS continued regular patrols to Aburoc, Kodok and Tonga. The Mission also conducted patrols to SPLM/A in Opposition-held areas of Akobo, Cueibet, north-eastern Jonglei, Kajo Kaji, Raja, the Wau triangle area and Yei. It held discussions about re-establishing an UNMISS presence in Akobo to deter and mitigate conflict and to create an environment conducive to humanitarian assistance and the eventual return of internally displaced persons. On 25 January, UNMISS inaugurated a new base in Yei, Central Equatoria, with the aim of building confidence to encourage voluntary returns.

35. Under the third tier, establishment of a protective environment, UNMISS engaged with authorities and civil society to create a more conducive environment for displaced populations to return. In Melut, the Mission and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in collaboration with humanitarian partners, supported the return of 255 displaced persons and the reintegration in Melut of around 300 people. The Melut protection of civilians site was closed on 20 December. In Bor, the Mission and humanitarian aid partners facilitated the return of 251 displaced persons to Fangak. In Wau, UNMISS and humanitarian actors progressed in the implementation of the action plan to create a protective and enabling environment for displaced populations to return. Concurrently, the Mission started to implement 20 quick-impact projects aimed at supporting host communities around the UNMISS protection of civilians sites, promoting peaceful coexistence, strengthening national police operations around the sites and creating conditions favourable to return and reintegration. In Bentiu, UNMISS also promoted the expansion of the weapons-free zone concept, with humanitarian actors and the Government agreeing to coordinate on clearing the zone around the perimeter and to create a ring road to facilitate UNMISS patrolling.

36. The Mission continued engaging with women at the subnational level on the prevention of sexual- and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, and enhancing women's participation in peace processes. As at the end of December, 21 dialogue processes and forums had been organized with women leaders in civil society and community-based organizations on the above-mentioned themes. Building on a joint study conducted with UNDP on capacities within the national justice system, the Mission has been collecting information and data on the prosecution of conflict-related crimes against women and children. This is part of efforts to establish a special unit focused on conflict-related crimes, in particular sexual and gender-based violence.

B. Monitoring and investigating human rights

37. The human rights environment in South Sudan remained poor. Human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including killings, conflict-related sexual violence and civilian displacement, continued throughout the country. During the reporting period, UNMISS verified the killing of at least 148 civilians, including 9 women, and at least 41 injury cases, including 11 women. There are strong indications that actual numbers are much higher, but insecurity and denials of access continue to hamper investigations of alleged human rights violations and abuses. During the reporting period, UNMISS human rights officers encountered delays and denials of access by SPLA, SPLA in Opposition forces and a county commissioner. UNMISS documented 19 incidents of conflict-related sexual violence affecting a total of 24 female victims, including 11 children. Incidents comprised 10 cases of rape, 8 cases of gang rape and 1 attempted rape. Ten incidents were attributed to SPLA, six to the pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition, two to unidentified gunmen and one to the National Security Service.

38. Amid growing insecurity, on 11 December the President issued Republican Order No. 35/2017 declaring a three-month state of emergency in Western Lakes, Gok and Eastern Lakes and authorizing the use of force in disarming armed youth. UNMISS notes that the procedural requirements for the state of emergency appear not to have been met under South Sudanese law. The implementation of the state of emergency in Gogrial, Tonj, Wau and Aweil East, which had been extended through Republican Order No. 28/2017 on 9 November, continued during the reporting period. Concerns arose over reports of increased powers of arrest and detention of civilians given to SPLA, in particular in Gogrial and Aweil East, despite such authority not being authorized by law. During a public speech delivered on 26 January in Cueibet, Lakes, the Governor of Gok announced that under the state of emergency, crimes committed by civilians before and after the declaration of the state of emergency, such as murder, theft and looting, would be tried by the military tribunal. Furthermore, he warned that the army had received orders to disarm by force and to "shoot" in the event of refusal to comply. However, under the 2011 Transitional Constitution of South Sudan, the rights to life and to fair trial should not be suspended during a state of emergency.

39. Conditions of detention and prison facilities remain extremely poor, in contravention of international standards, with cases of prolonged, arbitrary and proxy detention. For example, on 20 November, during monitoring activities at Aweil Central Prison, UNMISS recorded 86 cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention. Overcrowding remains a key concern inside the facility, which, as at the end of January 2018, accommodated over 400 prisoners and detainees against a reported capacity of 150. On 22 December, in Torit Prison, UNMISS identified 65 pretrial detainees, including 8 male minors and 2 adult women, 9 of whose remand warrants had expired.

40. Accountability for crimes and violations committed in connection with the conflict and other human rights violations and abuses remains of concern. On 14 December, the President issued a decree promoting to positions within the SPLA leadership three officials who are on the sanctions list developed pursuant to Security Council resolution 2206 (2015). On 9 February, the Special Tribunal constituted by the SPLA General Court Martial announced the postponement of verdicts in the trial of 11 SPLA soldiers charged with various crimes and human rights violations at the Terrain Hotel compound in July 2016.

41. On 12 February, the High Court in Juba sentenced James Gatdet Dak, the former Press Secretary to the Leader of SPLM in Opposition, Riek Machar, to death by

hanging for violation of section 64 (Treason) of the South Sudan Penal Code Act (2008), 20 years' imprisonment for violation of section 75 (Publishing or Communicating False Statements Prejudicial to Southern Sudan), and one year in prison for violation of section 76 (Undermining Authority of or Insulting President). Mr. Dak has the right to appeal against the verdict within 15 days.

42. The environment for media and journalists in South Sudan remains very difficult, with journalists still vulnerable to unwarranted harassment, threats, arbitrary arrest and detention by security forces. On 24 November, UNMISS voiced its concerns to the National Security Service about censorship, incidents of which have continued to occur, such as of the *Juba Monitor* newspaper on 7 December and the *Dawn* newspaper on 15 December. On 7 February, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission published an annual report covering the period from July 2016 to June 2017. In the report, it was noted that conflict-related violations, such as killings, sexual violence and mass displacement of the civilian population, remain prevalent. Among other recommendations, the Commission called upon the Government to establish transitional justice institutions envisaged in chapter V of the 2015 peace agreement. Also in February, the UNMISS Human Rights Division and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights published a report on the right to freedom of opinion and expression in South Sudan since the July 2016 crisis.

43. During the reporting period, UNMISS conducted seven training sessions on human rights and international humanitarian law standards targeting 372 representatives, including 95 women, of government security organs. Public awareness campaigns on human rights included 25 sessions on basic human rights principles for 1,602 participants, including 1,061 women. From 25 November to 10 December, Human Rights Day, the United Nations supported outreach activities to mark the annual campaign of global activism to end gender-based violence. UNMISS also trained 40 National Security Service members and 30 members of State Legislative Assemblies in Juba on the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

44. During the reporting period, the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting on children in armed conflict documented 92 incidents, 42 of which were verified as grave violations, affecting at least 2,154 children (1,254 boys, 888 girls and 12 sex unknown). Almost half of the verified incidents were attributed to SPLA.

45. UNMISS and the United Nations Children's Fund continued supporting the national Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission in the age assessment screening of children associated with armed forces and groups in Western Equatoria. The assessment identified a total of 700 children, including 218 girls, as being associated with two armed groups. An initial group of 311 of the children was formally released on 7 February. UNMISS facilitated 50 training and sensitization sessions on child protection for 3,457 participants (1,242 women), drawn from UNMISS personnel, members of armed forces and groups, public authorities and community members.

C. Creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

46. UNMISS has continued to provide force protection for the delivery of humanitarian assistance where it is sought. Examples during the reporting period include protection for humanitarian assistance missions in Amadi, Ezo, Mundri and Tambura in Western Equatoria, Guit and Rubkona in Unity, and Aburoc and Tonga in Upper Nile. Engineering teams have also continued to rehabilitate and improve

sections of roads and bridges both for the benefit of the local economy and the delivery of humanitarian aid. Examples include repairs to the 205 kilometres of road from Malakal to Melut, begun in November; the repair of the Akoka bridge in Upper Nile in early January; and the rehabilitation of the Bor-Pibor road, completed in February. In December, the Mission announced plans to double the amount of road repair and rehabilitation work carried out annually by UNMISS, with a target of 2,350 kilometres in 2018.

47. During the reporting period, the Mine Action Service of the United Nations conducted survey and clearance activities in Aburoc, Mathiang and Urieng in Upper Nile, as requested by humanitarian aid organizations. Additionally, the Mine Action Service surveyed and cleared airstrips in Jangok, Malakal, Pibor and Rubkona to support Mission and humanitarian operations. During the reporting period, 49 mine action teams were deployed across the country, a total of 3,356,480 m^2 was surveyed and released and a further 11,126 explosive hazards and 178,409 small arms and ammunition were removed and destroyed.

D. Supporting the implementation of the peace agreement

48. My Special Representative continued to utilize his good offices to support the full implementation of the peace agreement and stress the importance of all parties participating in good faith in the IGAD-led high-level revitalization forum, attending both rounds of the talks held in Addis Ababa. He met with key opposition figures outside the country to encourage their participation in the revitalization efforts. He also met regularly with the President and national leaders in Juba, as well as state and local actors, to encourage their adherence to the cessation of hostilities agreement. In addition, he hosted regular meetings of the diplomatic community in Juba to align the positions of international partners in support of the overall peace process.

49. UNMISS continued to support the operations of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism by providing logistical support and force protection, facilitating the movement of the Mechanism's 12 monitoring and verification teams and participating in integrated patrols during field visits. Following the signing in December 2017 of the cessation of hostilities agreement and in the light of the Mechanism's increased responsibilities, UNMISS has met regularly with the Mechanism to streamline coordination and support, which has included planning to increase pre-emptive joint patrols and improve deployment responsiveness following ceasefire violations. From 23 to 25 January, UNMISS participated in a technical-level workshop in Addis Ababa with the Mechanism and relevant stakeholders, including armed groups and SPLA, to assist in the mapping of various armed group positions around the country.

50. In support of the peace agreement's aim of establishing Joint Integrated Police Units, UNMISS has been implementing recommendations to address registration, training and other issues that arose with the first batch of Joint Integrated Police. UNMISS police personnel have been providing post-training advice to five police divisions in Juba city and have assisted in developing the personnel records system at the Joint Integrated Police headquarters. Registration of Joint Integrated Police officers in the National Police Service database is ongoing.

51. Progress in establishing a Hybrid Court for South Sudan and other transitional justice mechanisms, as specified by the peace agreement, remains limited. In mid-December 2017, the Council of Ministers endorsed the draft statute and memorandum of understanding for the Hybrid Court. The statute sets out the role, structure, composition and jurisdiction of the planned court. From 12 to 14 December, a committee tasked by the Government with establishing a commission on truth,

reconciliation and healing organized a three-day discussion in Juba about the planned legislative basis for the commission. On 25 and 26 January, UNMISS and UNDP convened a meeting on transitional justice with the participation of community leaders from the protection of civilians sites in Juba and the Ministry of Justice to solicit views about transitional justice processes and the mechanisms set out in the 2015 peace agreement. Participants agreed that transitional justice should remain a priority area for discussion and recommended that the revitalization forum in Addis Ababa extend the deadlines for establishing transitional justice mechanisms and expedite the establishment of the Hybrid Court.

52. The Mission's public radio station, Radio Miraya, has taken an active role in raising public awareness of the December 2017 cessation of hostilities agreement. It continues to increase its programming and explore ways to expand its coverage to more remote parts of South Sudan. UNMISS is also developing printed information materials about the cessation of hostilities agreement, including in local languages, for distribution to the public. On 31 January and 1 February, the Mission supported a workshop on enhancing women's participation in peace processes in South Sudan.

VI. Mission staffing and status of deployment

53. As at 12 February 2018, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,664, including 876 international staff members (228 women, 26 per cent), 1,395 national staff members (197 women, 14 per cent) and 393 United Nations Volunteers (122 women, 31 per cent). During the reporting period, an UNMISS Focal Point for Women was appointed.

54. The police strength as at 12 February stood at 1,643 (out of an authorized 2,101 officers), comprising 553 individual police officers (110 women, 20 per cent), 1,019 personnel in formed police units (153 women, 15 per cent) and 71 corrections officers (20 women, 28 per cent). The arrival of a Ghanaian formed police unit of 170 officers in Wau and the deployment of an all-female Rwandan formed police unit in Juba are now expected in March 2018.

55. As at 12 February, the UNMISS troop strength stood at 12,987 military personnel, comprising 187 military liaison officers (15 women, 8 per cent), 384 military staff officers (42 women, 11 per cent) and 12,416 military contingent personnel (378 women, 3 per cent).

56. Out of the authorized 4,000 regional protection force troops, 1,030 have been inducted to date, including 27 out of the 41-person headquarters element, full complements of the Bangladesh Engineering Unit and the Nepalese High Readiness Company, and the advance company of the Ethiopian infantry battalion. In February, the main body of the Rwandan infantry battalion began arriving in the country and was expected to be fully deployed by early March.

57. UNMISS continued to strengthen its conduct and discipline programme, emphasizing the new approach of the Secretary-General as outlined in his report of February 2017 (A/71/818 and A/71/818/Corr.1 and A/71/818/Add.1). In keeping with the responsibilities outlined in that report, UNMISS conducted induction briefings for all newly recruited personnel and instituted a programme of mandatory refresher training focusing on the new approach of the Secretary-General. UNMISS has also developed a comprehensive sexual exploitation and abuse risk assessment plan that entails the regular conduct of risk assessments and follow-up and accountability for implementing the recommendations of those assessments.

58. All military contingents have carried out assessments of the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse in their respective locations. In partnership with the United

Nations task force on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, community-based complaint mechanisms have been established in Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Gorom, Juba, Malakal and Yambio. The aim is to provide the local community with safe, confidential and reliable channels for reporting any allegations of violations by United Nations personnel. In December 2017, the United Nations Victims' Rights Advocate visited South Sudan to reinforce the efforts of UNMISS and the United Nations country team to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded 12 allegations, bringing the current total number of open allegations to 139.

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and security of United Nations personnel

59. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded 30 incidents involving violations of the status-of-forces agreement. Of particular concern was an incident that occurred in Leer on 30 November 2017 in which SPLA and pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces engaged in heavy fighting in close proximity to the UNMISS temporary operating base. UNMISS protested the incident to the Governor of Southern Liech, who undertook not to deploy soldiers or allow weapons to be discharged in the vicinity of the base.

60. In total, 12 incidents involving movement restrictions that affected UNMISS operations were recorded. Of particular concern has been the restriction of UNMISS foot patrols in Torit since 13 December 2017. To date, the Government has not yet provided cogent reasons for the restriction. During the reporting period, five cases were recorded of denial of access to UNMISS human rights officers monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation. Two new cases of arrest and detention of UNMISS personnel were also reported. In one of the cases, the arrested staff member was released after being detained for four days, while in the other case the arrested staff member was released after being detained for around six hours. The whereabouts of two staff members arrested in 2014 remains unknown, and UNMISS has been denied access to them, despite multiple requests directed to the highest levels of the Government.

61. Violations of the obligation to facilitate the entry of UNMISS personnel into South Sudan continued to occur. On 26 November 2017, five UNMISS personnel holding valid entry visas were denied re-entry into the country at Juba International Airport by officers of the Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Immigration because they did not have exit stamps from their points of departure in their United Nations laissez-passers. Aside from those incidents, there were two recorded cases of UNMISS personnel being harassed or assaulted and two recorded cases of UNMISS property being seized.

62. Six incidents involving the pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition were recorded. Four incidents in Upper Nile and one in Western Bahr el-Ghazal constituted violations of freedom of movement, while one case recorded in Unity involved a threat to UNMISS personnel and premises.

63. UNMISS continues to notify the Government about violations through a monthly record of events and in-person meetings with relevant officials.

64. To prevent and mitigate threats to United Nations personnel, premises and assets, the Mission continues to implement security risk management measures, including enhancing the physical protection of United Nations premises, the use of alert and staff tracking systems and closer cooperation, information-sharing and liaison with Government security agencies. UNMISS continues to use its multimedia

communications and outreach channels to promote public understanding of the Mission's mandate and the role of peacekeepers in building peace and protecting civilians in South Sudan.

VIII. Financial aspects

65. The General Assembly, by its resolution 71/308, appropriated the amount of $1,071,000,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. As at 14 February 2018, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNMISS Special Account amounted to $285.4 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amounted to $2,512.5 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 31 October 2017, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 September 2017, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations and recommendations

66. The revitalization forum convened by IGAD presents an important opportunity for the Government and parties in opposition to resume dialogue aimed at bringing about sustainable peace. The cessation of hostilities agreement signed on 21 December was a significant achievement and gave a positive sign that the parties could be willing to finally silence the guns and work towards peace. However, the ensuing verified violations and the exchanges of accusations between the parties have called into question the determination of the parties to honour the agreements they sign. Once again, I must remind the parties that, as emphasized in the African Union Peace and Security Council communique of 8 February, the region and the international community are watching closely, and that there will be consequences for individual violators and spoilers of the agreement. These revitalization efforts represent a chance for the parties to show the world — and the people of South Sudan — that they can put aside differences for the sake of the nation and its people. It requires that dialogue and agreements be matched by commensurate changes in the actions of all parties and an improvement in the situation on the ground.

67. At the same time, noting the risks that may arise from disparate and uncoordinated peace initiatives, I urge the neighbours of South Sudan, the region and the wider international community to ensure that all efforts are well coordinated towards reinforcing the peace process and demonstrate a unity of purpose from regional and international stakeholders, which is critical for ending the crisis in South Sudan.

68. Inside South Sudan, it is encouraging to observe the generally open and relatively frank discussions during the national dialogue consultations, as well as the expressions of positive intent from those leading the national dialogue. It is clear that shortcomings in the coverage and inclusiveness of the dialogue exist. But I encourage the leaders of the national dialogue to be bold, and the Government of South Sudan to be open to views and recommendations from the dialogue. I also urge the Government to take measures to address the worsening human rights situation in the country, which at present is still grave.

69. In tandem with the requirements for peace, there are humanitarian requirements for saving lives and helping the millions of South Sudanese who face poverty, food insecurity and scarcity of basic services. I commend the efforts being made in this regard by humanitarian aid organizations and workers. The level of threats and risks that they face in their work, however, is unacceptable, as is attested by the number of

humanitarian workers killed in South Sudan: 28 in 2017, which is a new high. I therefore urge all parties to abstain from actions that may disrupt the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and to abstain from imposing other constraints on the delivery of assistance. Similarly, I call upon the Government to abide by its commitments to remove obstructions to UNMISS and to facilitate its operations, including the deployment of the regional protection force.

70. The Security Council is due to consider the extension of the UNMISS mandate in March 2018 following the completion of the review of the Mission. I trust that the Council will consider closely the recommendations of the review and will further update it, taking into consideration the outcome of the high-level revitalization forum.

71. In conclusion, I wish to convey my sincere appreciation for the steadfast commitment of UNMISS military, police and civilian personnel. Under the leadership of my Special Representative, David Shearer, they work courageously to protect hundreds of thousands of civilians, safeguard human rights, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and promote an inclusive political process. I particularly thank the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided much-needed uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission. I further commend the United Nations country team and non-governmental organization partners for their tremendous courage and sacrifice in providing vital humanitarian assistance to the population, in arduous and sometimes dangerous conditions. I also thank my Special Envoy, Nicholas Haysom, for his support to the peace process at the regional level. I commend the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, and the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, the former President of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré, for their commitment to addressing the plight of the civilian population of South Sudan in partnership with the United Nations.

UNMISS FORCE DEPLOYMENT
February 2018
SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
UGANDA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
DEM REP OF THE CONGO
Juba
Bentiu
Malakal
Bor
Wau
Rumbek
Yambio
Aweil
Kuajok
Torit
Kapoeta
Pibor
Akobo
Nasir
Renk
Melut
Ulang
Paloich
Maban
Raja
Ezo
Tambura
Yei
Mundri
Maridi
Terekeka
Kajo Keji
Lankien
Leer
Mayom
Abyei
Abyei region**
Main road
National capital
State (+ eff. capital)
Town
Major airport
International boundary
UNMISS operational northern limit*
State (+ eff. boundary)
Sector boundary
Railroad
Sector West
Sector North
Sector East
FHQ
FORWARD HQ
RSF (Juba)
BANGLADESH
NEPAL
ETHIOPIA 3
RWANDA 3
MONGOLIA
GHANA
CAMBODIA
INDIA
CHINA
KOREA (RDO)
SRI LANKA
RWANDA
FPU
MP
HR
IR
EP
* Final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined
** Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map No. 4169 Rev. 31 UNITED NATIONS
February 2018 (Colour)
Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)